



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 5494***

LCO No. 1874

\*01874\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL  
QUALITY MANDATES OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-155e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 [The Board of Governors of Higher Education, with the advice and  
4 assistance of the constituent units of the state system of higher  
5 education and such private institutions of higher education as elect to  
6 participate after notice thereof, shall develop programs for persons  
7 employed in the public schools as paraprofessionals, to assist such  
8 paraprofessionals to fulfill state teacher certification requirements. Said  
9 Board of Governors of Higher Education shall report its findings and  
10 recommendations to the joint standing committee on education of the  
11 General Assembly on or before February 1, 1974.]

12 (a) The Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with the  
13 Board for State Academic Awards, shall establish, within available  
14 appropriations, a program to prepare paraprofessionals who have  
15 been successful in the classroom for teaching careers. Under the

16 program, the department shall provide scholarships to  
17 paraprofessionals employed by priority school districts pursuant to  
18 section 10-266p, as amended, who seek to become certified teachers in  
19 shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b.

20 (b) The scholarships shall not exceed (1) three thousand dollars per  
21 year, or (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution  
22 of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend,  
23 whichever is less. A paraprofessional may receive up to five annual  
24 scholarships. The department shall establish criteria for  
25 paraprofessionals for participation in the program and procedures for  
26 the repayment of the amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to  
27 this section if the paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school  
28 district in a shortage subject area upon completion of the program.

29 (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall identify  
30 institutions of higher education to provide the necessary teacher  
31 training for the program. Each priority school district shall select  
32 paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the criteria  
33 established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
34 section and in consultation with the institutions of higher education.

35 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an  
36 employee of a local or regional board of education who holds a  
37 position that does not require a certificate issued by the State Board of  
38 Education and who serves as an instructional assistant for such local or  
39 regional board of education.

40 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
41 of subsection (b) of section 10-183g of the general statutes, on and after  
42 July 1, 2003, retirement benefits shall not be prorated and persons age  
43 sixty and older who have ten years or more of service as a teacher in  
44 Connecticut shall receive normal retirement benefits computed in  
45 accordance with subsection (a) of section 10-183g of the general  
46 statutes.

47 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is  
48 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
49 *1, 2004*):

50 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this  
51 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of  
52 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this  
53 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a  
54 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the  
55 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each  
56 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided  
57 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such  
58 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;  
59 and for any member receiving certification through an alternate route  
60 program approved by the State Board of Education, up to one year for  
61 each three years of service of active full-time service as a Connecticut  
62 teacher and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service  
63 described in this subsection. In no event, however, may any service  
64 described in this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or  
65 is, or will become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon  
66 such service from any governmental system other than the teachers'  
67 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional  
68 credited service includes:

69 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents  
70 established by the United States Department of Defense;

71 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its  
72 territories or possessions;

73 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as  
74 defined in section 27-103, as amended, or service in said armed forces  
75 during the period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31,  
76 1955;

77 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

78 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July  
79 1, 1965;

80 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North  
81 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

82 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to  
83 September 1, 1948;

84 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted  
85 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least  
86 one school year;

87 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the  
88 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the [Newington  
89 Children's Hospital] Connecticut Children's Medical Center;

90 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the  
91 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public  
92 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,  
93 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of  
94 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

95 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than  
96 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed  
97 thirty months;

98 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any  
99 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or  
100 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least  
101 one school year;

102 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the  
103 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

104 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

105 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Department of Education

106 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide  
107 three-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to beginning certified teachers in  
108 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
109 statutes, as amended. Teachers shall be eligible for the bonus for the  
110 first year they teach in such a district. The department shall provide  
111 funds to each priority school district to increase the salary of eligible  
112 teachers.

113       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Department of Education  
114 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide  
115 five-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to certified teachers (1) who agree  
116 to teach a minimum of three years in a school on the list of schools in  
117 need of improvement pursuant to section 10-223b of the general  
118 statutes, or (2) in shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the  
119 general statutes.

120       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Commissioner of Education  
121 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
122 54 of the general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the waiving of the  
123 fees for teacher certification examinations administered by the  
124 Department of Education. The commissioner shall waive the fee for  
125 any candidate who meets such criteria.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To address the teacher and paraprofessional quality mandate requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and offer incentives to teachers to teach in schools in need of improvement and in subject matter shortage areas.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*